

SUMMER 2007

Accent

AN AVILA UNIVERSITY
PUBLICATION

"I didn't just *get* here. I've held every position, from the lowest to the highest. I have always worked. I wouldn't know what it was like to be in school and not work."

*Anna Coles, Ph.D.
Class of 1958*

The Light at the End of the Tunnel



When I first started working at Avila in the Student Health Center, I will admit that I knew almost nothing about college students and college health. I just knew that the job sounded like fun and I would enjoy being active again in my profession.

As I interviewed for the position and received a tour of the health center, I was shocked at the location and the fact that I would be working at the end of a tunnel between Marian Centre and Hodes Centre. I drove home from the interview, and literally, as I walked in my house, the phone was ringing. It was a call from Avila offering me the job. I thought they either really liked me . . . or they were desperate. That was one week before classes started.

I felt overwhelmed that first day because that was the day classes began, there were hardly any medications or medical supplies, and there was no one else on campus doing exactly what I did. I guess in my early years, the students, faculty, and staff were my “guinea pigs,” as I began using my nursing assessment skills and determining what I could recommend or do to help people deal with illnesses and injuries.

It soon became apparent that I needed to find out what this college health nursing was all about. I found great resources through other Kansas City colleges that had health centers and I discovered a professional organization to join: American College Health Association. Those resources provided guidance and support as I developed standards, protocols, and guidelines, and received continuing education. Before I knew it, I discovered that health services encompassed so much more than I originally thought—it was much bigger than I ever thought it would be.

Why is it bigger than I ever thought it would be? College health nursing quickly became my career and my passion, because I believe in the impact it can have on students. I feel The Wellness Center (Health Services and Counseling Services) is the “light” at the end of the tunnel for many students, as they manage their own physical and mental health needs, find resources and referrals, and feel healthy enough to attend classes, clinicals, sports, extracurricular activities and more. They discover that they are helped when they are ill or injured, educated about their bodies, their symptoms, and medications, taught how to help themselves be their own advocates in the health care system, and empowered to be good health consumers. Does Health Services contribute to their university education? You better believe it does—hopefully to develop lifelong skills for physical and mental wellness.

Carol Hewitt, RN

Director of Health and Child Services

At graduation last May, a parent thanked me for helping her daughter with several health situations through her four year time at Avila. She said, “With our daughter four hours away from us, we felt so comfortable knowing that you were here to actually see her when she felt bad, take care of her minor health needs and know when she needed to go off campus for further care. We just wanted to say thank you.”

Accent

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Anna Coles '58 leads
by extraordinary example.

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Sisters of Selma Documentary Now Available

Alabama Public Broadcasting distributed the *Sisters of Selma* documentary by filmmaker Jayasri Hart who visited the Avila Campus. It was shown in February on Kansas City Public Television and ranked among the top debuts in the country.

Avila Professor Dr. Carol Coburn served as the academic advisor to the documentary that includes interviews with Avila alumnae and former faculty: Sr. Barbara Moore, Sr. Rosemary Flanigan, and Sr. Roberta Schmidt. The documentary features Associated Press news archival footage and interviews surrounding the Selma, Ala. voting rights demonstrations in 1965. It chronicles the journey of Catholic Sisters to the area and their impact on helping to improve the civil rights of many. In coordination with the debut of the documentary, Dr. Carol Coburn and Sr. Rosemary Flanigan appeared on the Steve Kraske Show on National Public Radio. They were also featured along with Sr. Barbara Moore in a front-page article in *The Kansas City Star*.

To order a copy of *Sisters of Selma* visit the Alabama Public Television Web site at: www.aptv.org.



Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ was the keynote speaker at the Harry S Truman Lecture Series/Dead Man Walking Theatre Project.

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ Gives Voice to the Condemned

During Sr. Helen Prejean's visit to Avila as part of the Dead Man Walking Theatre Project and the Harry S Truman Lecture Series, she made a huge impact in the community, meeting many people and spreading her message of forgiveness and reconciliation. Upon arrival, Sr. Helen met with the cast and crew of *Dead Man Walking* – the play. "Theatre is not just entertainment," she told the captivated students, "it is a vocation. Live theatre is the most intimate way to let the world know what is happening behind the closed doors of our nation's prisons."

Sr. Helen's Avila visit included receptions, a keynote address for the Harry S Truman Lecture Series, radio and newspaper interviews, a book signing at Barnes & Noble, and a "talk back" after the opening night performance of the play. Audiences heard the story of how she was compelled to write the book after she witnessed her first execution. "I never set out to be known as the 'death-row nun,' but when you type that into Google, my name pops up," she said with the slightest hint of humor. She does not think that there is anything humorous about killing inmates. She does, however, use humor to give voice to the condemned. To date, Sr. Helen has witnessed six executions and ministered to many others as their spiritual advisor.

Dr. Slepitz presented Sr. Helen with a proclamation for her unwavering dedication to abolishing the death penalty and her work with the poor of New Orleans. In addition, the Avila Peace Pole, which was installed on March 19, St. Joseph's Day, was named in her honor. "The peace pole will serve as a constant reminder to the Avila campus of your mission to bring peace and justice to the world," said Dr. Slepitz.

Avila Announces Service to the Faith Scholarship

Avila is proud of the commitment made by those who work full time in our various Catholic ministries in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan. In recognition of this commitment, Avila University is offering \$2,500 scholarships to dependents of full-time diocesan employees. Avila is also committed to offering this award in other dioceses nationally.

"We are proud to recognize the hard work of those who serve the faith. This scholarship is currently underwritten by Avila, but we feel that it will attract the support of generous benefactors who wish to honor those who serve their faith daily through their commitment of work and service to the church and its ministries," said Ron Slepitz, president.



New Faces in Enrollment and Student Development

Edwin Harris, Ph.D., "Ned," recently joined the Avila community as Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development. Ned, and his wife, Barbara, live in Liberty and have three grown sons.

"We need to find students that will benefit from the excellence and strength that Avila offers, and that fit with our mission and environment," he said. "We need to facilitate their education over the next four years, ultimately moving them into the ranks of alumni, where they can contribute back to the University by helping to recruit new students who fit with our mission and environment."

Darby Peoples joins the Avila community as Dean of Students. Darby was previously Dean of Students at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va. At Avila she hopes to encourage and educate students to become responsible, civic-minded, well-balanced people, living in a diverse world. Darby, her husband Eugene, and their two daughters Eleanor and Abygail are making their home in Kansas City.



Darby Peoples, Dean of Students, and Ned Harris, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development take the helm in Marian Centre.



Avila Professor's Art Sells Big!

Marci Alyward, assistant professor of art, had a

piece of art purchased for the permanent collection at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. The new museum will be located at Johnson County Community College. Alyward's piece titled "West Bottoms," was purchased at The Late Show gallery in the crossroads. Marci has pieces routinely on display there and has been featured in *The Kansas City Star* and most recently *The Pitch*.

CSJ Associates Group First at Avila, Largest in History

Included in every produced material that represents Avila you will find this phrase written in italics: "Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet." The Sisters founded Avila in 1916 and will always be a part of our heritage. Since then, they have been called to expand their ministries and to meet the demand for the work of the Sisters in other areas of need in the global community.

In August 2006, 11 members of the Avila community set out to help the Sisters by becoming Associates. The CSJ Associate program was started by the Sisters and invites men and women to become companions on the journey of faith that is expressed in service to our fellow people, deeper prayer life, and mutual support. These individuals will bring the mission of the Sisters to Avila and to the communities in which they live.

On May 6, these individuals culminated their journey through candidacy by making their formal commitment in St. Louis. Avila's candidates made history as the largest group to pledge initial commitments since the beginning of the associate program.

The group will meet throughout the year engaging in prayer, reflection, and determining how their ministries can help to "serve the dear neighbor."



The new associates join with the Sisters to promote the CSJ mission: (back) Ron Slepitz, Sr. Marie Joan Harris, Mary Etta Benson, Ralph Hunt, (center) Lacey Smith, Delany Dean, Charlene Gould, Maria Hunt, Carol Frevert, Sr. Ruth Stuckel, (front) Brian Moore, Jeremy Lillig, Nicole Nicoll, Dave Armstrong, Karen Baum

Commencement 2007



Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ, received her honorary doctorate during the 2007 commencement exercises.

doctorate to Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ, president emerita. Standing next to Sr. Olive during this momentous occasion was Vita M. Goppert, Avila's first lay woman trustee and the first recipient of an honorary doctorate. In her acceptance speech, Sr. Olive reflected on how, as the new president for Avila College in 1960, she was one of the persons responsible for drafting the new bylaws outlining the power of the president. Ironically, one of those powers was granting the honorary doctorate.

Commencement 2007 was held on May 12, 2007, at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. A near-capacity crowd watched as over 300 graduates received their diplomas. The commencement speakers were undergraduate candidate Megan Kathryn Easterday and graduate candidate David Andrew Meenen.

A notable event at this year's commencement was the presentation of an honorary



Dr. Ron Slepitz Communicates through Blogging

Dr. Ron Slepitz is one of a score of university presidents communicating through "blogging," the term used to describe journal-like entries posted on Web sites. Dr. Ron's blogs address issues important to him and the Avila community. You'll find a link on the Avila home page to his blog, where you can register to receive an e-mail notification of new blog entries.

Teams to Shape Avila's Future

In true collaborative spirit, Dr. Slepitzka wants to shape Avila's future, creating a blueprint for its strategic growth, by forming four teams, each charged with one area that he feels is critical to the school's success. The four teams, all volunteer groups made up of Avila faculty, staff and students, are: Strategic Budget Planning, Indicators of Success and Institutional Effectiveness, Leveraging Learning, and Enhancing Campus-Community Engagement.

The budget planning team will be an extension of a group that has been meeting over the last few months, but the direction will be more strategic and less number crunching to balance the budget.

The indicators team will identify comparison and aspirant schools and then develop outcomes in the areas of student learning, fiscal and physical environment, enrollment and retention standards and outcomes, and growing our capacity as a learning organization.

The leveraging learning team is charged with identifying the best teaching/learning practices using current learning research-occurring nationally and on campus; to expand and/or build exemplary programs and learning experiences; integrate learning across the disciplines; build the strength of the core curriculum; develop innovative leaders in an information-rich global community; gain recognition for Avila's contributions to the scholarship of learning and support faculty development; identify pathways through the institution to ensure success for all students; and create spaces and introduce modalities that promote and support learning.

The enhancement team will identify exemplary existing relationships and partnerships that enhance learning and define the quality and character thereof; propose new relationships and partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally; identify exemplary relationships that increase community awareness and recognition of Avila; and determine the programs, services, and opportunities that best position Avila in the community and the community with Avila.

Dr. Slepitzka brought the four groups together during a comprehensive retreat in August, and the information they gathered will create Avila's new strategic vision.



Dr. Slepitzka leads a group exercise during the first of two summer retreats.



Avila students Michael Stolberg and Joy Donze appeared in the Avila Theatre production, *The Glass Menagerie*.

Avila Theatre Chosen for College Theatre Festival

The Avila University Theatre's production of *The Glass Menagerie* was one of eight shows to be chosen out of 207 productions to present at the American College Theatre Festival Midwest Region at Iowa State University in January.

Three technical theatre majors received letters of commendation at the festival. Danielle Laubach was honored for set design, Whitney Wegman for sound design, and Sarah Van Horn for costume design. Danielle Laubach also won second place in model building for her *The Glass Menagerie* set model.

Avila was also selected to participate in the Irene Ryan Acting competition. Joy Donze, Rachael Redler and Michael Stolberg all presented scenes.



*We'd be up a tree
without your help!↗*

Traditionally, strong institutions have strong annual funds.

Annual giving is the life-blood of most institutions and is the best way for alumni, friends, parents, faculty, and staff to make a difference in the future of Avila University. Making contributions to the annual fund each year raises much-needed funds for programs, activities and scholarships. Your support of the annual fund helps us to fulfill our mission of providing the very best values-based Catholic education.

We have been very fortunate to have alumni, family, and friends who believe in our mission and want to see Avila continue as an institution that allows students of all abilities, ethnicities, backgrounds, and income levels to reach their full potential. Your charitable commitment will make a meaningful impact on every student that attends Avila.

Please consider a gift to the annual fund. You may use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.avila.edu/give. If you would like to receive more information regarding the annual fund, please contact Laura Lopez, director of annual fund, at 816-501-3696 or laura.lopez@avila.edu.



Workers put the finishing touches on the new Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall (left), a completed and furnished room (center), and the McCullough Family Courtyard (bottom).

Thompson Hall Rolls Out Welcome Mat

Despite a wet and cold spring, construction on the new Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall remains on track for completion in late summer with students slated to move in during August. The three-story suite-style residence hall will provide housing for 66 students, with 16 furnished suites designed for four residents each plus two resident assistants.

Amenities will include individual bedrooms for each student, with two students sharing a full bathroom, a living room, and small kitchen. The hall will also have laundry facilities and a “computer café” equipped with wireless Internet access. The hall also will provide residents with a spectacular view of the athletic fields as well as the south Kansas City skyline. Every room

in Thompson Hall is already booked for the upcoming fall semester.

“This project has invigorated the entire university,” stated Avila President Ron Slepitza. “The students are extremely excited to have another quality option for housing and everyone is looking forward to having a greater residential presence on this campus. It will allow us to expand our program offerings and create a greater sense of community.”

The project was made possible through the generous support of over 100 donors.

A dedication is being planned for the first week of the Fall semester. Please check the Web site in August for details.



AVILA 2007 STEER DINNER

IN THE
ZONE

S.O.L.D.
FUND
AHEAD

IN HONOR OF

SISTER
OLIVE
LOUISE
DALLAVIS

On March 24,
over 500 guests entered
the zone with honorary chairs
Joe and Sue Fahey, event chairs
Tom and Virginia '58 Coppinger, and
event vice chairs Jack and Kathy '70 Newman.

The 31st Annual Steer Dinner broke records, raising
more than \$428,000 for student scholarships and setting the
live auction record in raising over \$156,000 for the S.O.L.D. Fund
in honor of Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ, president emerita.

The event was held at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
with patrons, including Avila employees and students,
who enjoyed a short rib dinner, chocolate
construction hats and tiramisu tarts. Ron
Stricker and the Nigro Brothers
presented a lively auction and
Neon Blue provided
the musical
entertainment.

Honorary Chair,
Joe Fahey



David Nigro



Front row: Sr. Mary Anne Smith, CSJ; Sr. Marian Niemann, CSJ;
Sr. Ann Schorfheide, CSJ; Sr. Barbara Moore, CSJ. Back row:
Sr. Elaine Besand, CSJ; Sr. Martha Niemann, CSJ; Nicole Nicoll, CSJA;
Sr. Ruth Stuckel, CSJ; and Sr. Anna Schlett, CSJ

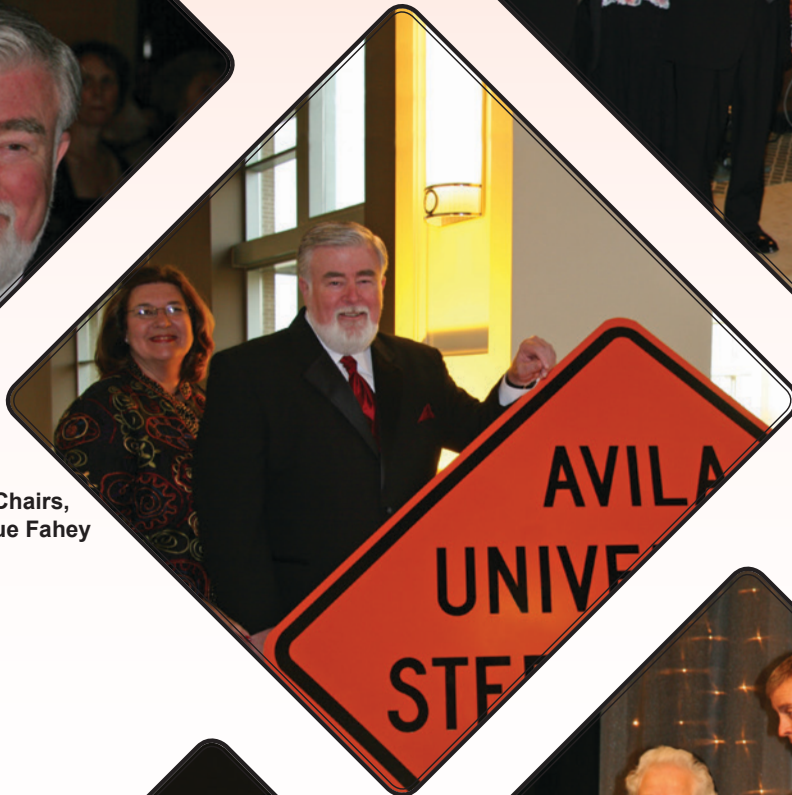
Avila Women's Ensemble,
Dr. Amity Bryson, Conductor;
Dr. Linda Cleveland, Cellist



Jack and Kathy '70 Newman, Event Vice
Chairs; Tom and Virginia '58 Coppinger,
Event Chairs; Ron Slepitz, Avila President,
and Suzanne Slepitz



Honorary Chairs,
Joe and Sue Fahey



Richard and JoAnn '58 Teahan,
Brenda Windju and Bob Aylward



Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ,
President Emerita; and John Holt,
Master of Ceremonies



Joan and Byron Thompson;
Marilee DiCarlo



Kim Basnight,
student speaker

IN THE ZONE



when we were divided, she conquered

by Brian Moore

GO AHEAD... follow your instincts when you meet Anna Coles.

With her extraordinary grace and assurance, you'll understand right away that Dr. Coles is a woman who leads, a woman in whom others easily place their confidence. As she engages you with an easy smile, and others are drawn into the conversation, you'll also understand that Anna Coles is used to having an audience.



Anna Coles '58 enjoys a visit from Brian Moore, Avila's director of development, during a beautiful spring day in suburban Washington D.C.

Then quiet your instincts. Let Dr. Coles tell you how a girl who attended the segregated Kansas City, Kan. schools went on to become a pioneering and influential educator. Let her tell you about teaching Jackie Robinson's daughter, about the lecture series named after her, and about her protégés who are still influencing the education of nurses. Just don't let your assumptions about segregation and women's roles define Anna Coles.

Mid-20th Century America was a time of turmoil and injustice, and Dr. Coles is proud of having shaped the education of African-American nurses against the backdrop of the civil rights movement. However, she doesn't frame her life and career in those terms. What

Anna Coles wants you to understand is that she is a nurse and an educator, a professional whose skills met the challenges of the day.

For young Anna Bailey, the segregated neighborhoods and schools of Kansas City, Kan. were, simply, home. She was a strong student, a self-described teacher's pet who tried to emulate their immaculate appearance: "I was so starched and ironed that I didn't want to sit down." A graduate of Sumner High School, Anna remembers a rivalry with also-segregated Lincoln High on the Missouri side of the river that seems timeless. "The Kansas boys didn't like the Missouri boys coming over to talk to us, and the Missouri boys didn't like it



Dr. Coles served as Professor and Dean of the Howard University College of Nursing from 1968–1986.

when the same thing happened to them.” While she was in high school, Anna worked in Missouri, riding the bus across the river where there were more jobs, and noting that she sat anywhere she wanted on the bus.

Teachers and nurses were the most readily available professional role models for girls in the 1930s and 1940s. Although Anna was drawn to their appearance and comportment, she also understood that her teachers often lacked

professional training. “Two of my teachers did not have college degrees, and another one was working on hers while she taught us.” Following high school graduation, a friend had begun working on a nursing diploma, and Anna saw an opportunity to begin a professional career while continuing her education.

Upon a recommendation from a local physician, Anna began her educational journey at Freedmen’s Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, D.C., in 1945. Built by the federal government on land leased from Howard University (one of the country’s premier, historically black universities), Freedmen’s was established in 1863 as a solution to the freed slaves descending on the city. During her three years at Freedmen’s, Anna Bailey developed a work ethic and a practical educational philosophy which would direct her career and life. Over the next two decades she embarked on a journey which would impress today’s multi-tasking, postmodern adults: marriage, three children, three cross-continental moves, continual employment with rapid advancement, and attainment of her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees.

As Dr. Coles guides you through these years, the conversation centers on the practical. Nursing diploma in hand, she returned to the Midwest and began work as

a staff nurse at the Topeka Veteran’s Hospital in 1950. The Kansas City Veteran’s Hospital was her next stop, with her responsibilities increasing along the way. She talks about her decision to obtain a bachelor’s degree from The College of St. Teresa (now Avila) as a matter of economics: “Most nurses only had diplomas, but at the V.A. they paid according to education.”

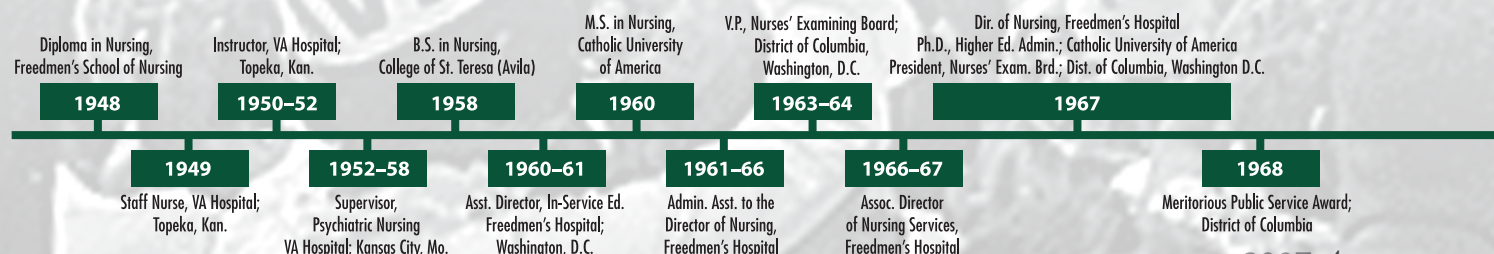
Dr. Coles portrays her family through the same sensible lens. Raising three children while balancing work and school was no easier in the 1950s and 1960s than it is today, but she maintained both her personal and family priorities. “The evening had to be spent with the children. The books were rested until they went to bed, and I watched the news with my husband. Then the books came back out, sometimes until 4:00 a.m.” Her reward for such dedication was that “the children always waited until the night before an examination to get deathly ill.” When husband Herbert hinted at a fourth child, her reply—though not direct—was clear: “I went out and came home with a poodle.”

On November 22, 1963, Anna Coles was not yet 40 years old. Now back in Washington and working at Freedmen’s hospital, she had also recently begun a doctoral program across town at Catholic University. She emerged from her normal afternoon study session at the Library of Congress to find the city’s flags at half mast. Hard at work while the entire nation mourned, Anna Coles found out from her children that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

Dr. Coles will tell you that she never planned or aspired to become a college dean. Nursing was continuing its evolution from vocation to profession, and “a nurse with a Ph.D. was unheard of at



Creating a baccalaureate nursing program required vision and a hands-on approach.



the time,” she recalls. Nonetheless, it is clear that she was not simply taking advantage of opportunities, but rather creating opportunities for herself. That sense of the practical, which had guided her career and education, made it possible for Anna Coles to see a future as a leader, even if no one else was there to show the way.

The newly minted Ph.D. found out right away how things move quickly for people with training and obvious skills. Having received the degree in 1967, Dr. Coles was appointed Director of Nursing Services and Director of Nursing Education at Freedmen’s Hospital. Just a few months later, she was at a conference in Texas when neighboring Howard University called and asked her to establish their new baccalaureate School of Nursing.

America was brawling and burning in 1968. Dr. King was shot in April, and Bobby Kennedy in June; Vietnam raged on; and there were riots in the cities and on campuses. In Washington, Anna Coles worked during those chaotic days to create a degree-granting program for African-American nurses. She approached her work as an advocate for both the new program as well as the profession of nursing. With a smile, Dr. Coles talks about “sitting at the table with the big boys” and insisting that this new nursing program be regarded as a peer to other academic programs. “People talked about ‘The College of this’ and ‘The College of that,’ and then the School of Nursing.”

Such respect had to be earned, and Dr. Coles provided the necessary vision. In order to develop well-rounded problem solvers, she and her fledgling faculty created a curriculum grounded in the liberal arts. Hard work and performance were expected from everyone involved in the new program. Faculty members were expected to do professional work and act as role models. Students were to perform as scholars. When the demands of a college education became a burden, Dr. Coles encouraged students to lean on her experience. “I didn’t just get here. I’ve held every position, from the lowest to the highest. I have always worked. I wouldn’t know what it was like to be in school and not work.”

The hard work paid off. Within three years, the Howard University School of Nursing was accredited. But for Anna Coles, it was just a start. The profession of nursing was now an academic discipline at Howard (and elsewhere), requiring a graduate faculty to teach

and conduct research. With an accredited program up and running, Dr. Coles now turned her attention to training and mentoring graduate students who would, in turn, become the faculty and administration of the future.

The academic world moves slowly. Hiring decisions can take months. Academic committee work is to efficiency what road construction is to rush hour traffic. Accrediting agencies check in on institutions once a decade.

In 1981, the National League for Nursing awarded continuing accreditation to Howard’s baccalaureate nursing program and initial accreditation to its new Master’s program. Within a short time, Dean Anna Coles’ leadership at Howard transformed nursing from a diploma program offered at neighboring Freedmen’s Hospital to a fully accredited academic discipline. The days of ‘and the School of Nursing’ were gone, and in its place was the Howard University College of Nursing.

Anna Coles is proud of her professional legacy. She’ll tell you about the students and faculty members she has mentored, and she’ll tell you about awards from professional associations and colleges (including the Avila Medal of Honor and the Alumni Award in Nursing). She is the subject of a doctoral dissertation as well as other scholarly work. She’s still in demand professionally, with frequent requests to publish and attend national conferences.

While it’s certainly accurate to assign some glowing labels to Anna Coles—pioneer, leader, even visionary—she’s not one to engage in that conversation. She’ll respond to your attempt, and before you know it, the conversation has moved ahead. For Anna Coles, nurse and educator will suffice.



“A nurse with a Ph.D. was unheard of at the time,” but Dr. Coles would make quick use of her credentials.

Dir. of Nursing and Dean,
Howard University Hospital
and College of Nursing

1968–69

Medal of Honor;
Avila University

1969

Board of Directors,
National League of Nursing

1981–85

Distinguished Alumni
of the Year,
Howard University

1990

Service Award, Midwest
Regional Conf. on Black
Families and Children

1994

1968–86

Professor and Dean
Howard University
College of Nursing

1974

First African-American
Nurse Elected Institute
of Medicine

1986–Present

Dean Emeritus,
Howard University
College of Nursing


1993

Lifetime Achievement
Award, Assoc. of Black
Nursing Faculty

2006

Nursing Alumni Award,
Avila University

“The evening had to be spent with the children. The books were rested until they went to bed, and I watched the news with my husband. Then the books came back out, sometimes until 4:00 a.m.”



an artist's legacy

THOUGH THEIR PHYSICAL PRESENCE on campus has diminished, the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph is preserved for today's students in Avila's mission and values. Students prior to the mid-90's had the benefit of having the Sisters as professors and mentors. If you were an athlete, Sr. Ann Dominic and Sr. Rose Anthony were at your games shouting and praying, respectively. Education majors had classes with Sr. Marie Georgette, and music majors with Sr. de La Salle McKeon. For two generations of art students, the Avila experience was defined by Sr. Margaret Reinhart.

Margaret Reinhart grew up in De Pere, Wis., and attended high school at St. Joseph's Academy in Green Bay. Inspired by the Sisters, she entered the congregation at age 18. In 1945, Sr. Margaret arrived in Kansas City to begin work at St. Teresa's College as the head of the art department. For the next 52 years, she touched students with her talent, her intellect and her spirit.

One of Sr. Margaret's students (and admirers) was her

niece, Molle (Demarais) Stueve, '55. Molle recalls her aunt as a woman who used art to connect to students, and a woman whose art served as a metaphor for life. Sr. Margaret struggled with painting the human form, but after her retirement in 1997, she rededicated herself to portraits. Sister stood working at an easel to improve her portrait work until three weeks before her death in 2001. Women who knew Sr. Margaret "looked to my aunt when they were attempting changes later in life. Whenever she encountered a challenge, she simply pressed on: 'Oh, I can do this.'"

Much like art itself, Sr. Margaret still has an impact on those she came in contact with, even though the artist has moved on to a higher calling. Pat Owens '64, creates with glass from her home studio in North Wales, Pa. (outside of Philadelphia). Wayland House '74, creates primarily woodblock prints at his studio in Washington, D.C. Both artists have had their work featured in regional and national shows.



Pat Owens '64

As her student at Avila, I found that Sr. Margaret exceeded her reputation. She established a groundwork in form and color, which became the criteria for appreciating the art of the masters as well as evaluating and appreciating contemporary artists.

Beyond providing a solid basis for appreciating art and understanding art history, Sr. Margaret inspired me, as a fledgling artist, to use those same critical, objective criteria, which are more universal and enduring than art trends, to my own work. She also instilled a curiosity that opened my mind to inspiration from even unexpected influences and experiences. In a class on 15th century Flemish art, she commented that one never knows how influences come nor the effect they will have on one's work.

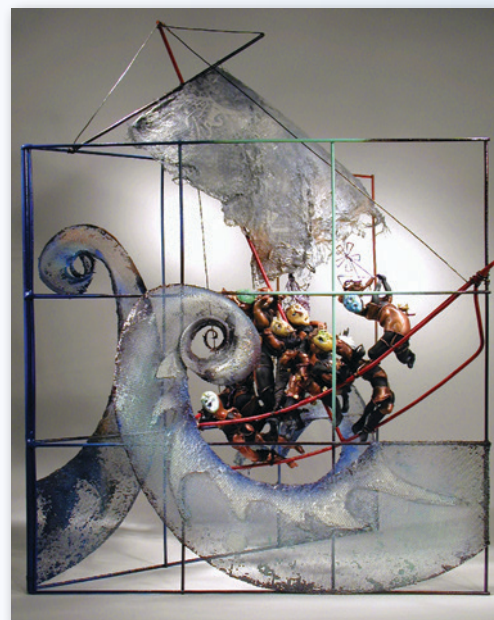
In my case, however, I know the influence that she has had on my work. I still study those early Dutch paintings today, and still find ways to incorporate the symbolic codes, iconography, and allegories in

Though it was when she was still working under the alias of Sr. Georgiana Marie, I knew of Sr. Margaret Reinhart by reputation when I was a high school art student. Her reputation was that of a very creative teacher who was not only inspiring, but always open to new ways of experiencing art.

my current art. These art elements, drawn from universal human experiences and hopes, give a mission to the formal context of art by making it narrative.

My art has moved from painting to hot glass art, but Sr. Margaret's influence remains in my love of narrative with its inherent use of symbols and levels of meaning. Sr. Margaret's inspiration to seek, search, and follow a personal muse was transmitted to her students through the medium of her enthusiasm and example.

The beauty of art is in the object and the strength of art is in its connection to an audience. For the artist the value of art is in the seeking. In instilling this in her students, Sr. Margaret, an artist in her own right, has created in her students another body of art.



Storm at Galilee



Wayland House '74

surface of paper and painted on while still wet. The objective is to allow the colors to mix and flow, creating an interesting color scheme of vibrant colors.

Her encouragement has stayed with me over the years, and to this day I incorporate the wet-in-wet

Sister Margaret was very inspirational in nurturing my development as an artist. She provided me with guidance and direction.

I learned many different painting techniques from her. One such technique is called, "the wet-in-wet technique of watercolor painting." Water is applied directly onto the entire

technique in my art work. I remained in touch with her after I graduated from Avila and stayed in touch over the years. I often think about how she influenced my life as an artist and a person.



Bundu Society Dancers

Alumni Events

October 4, 2007

Eagle Athletic Association
Golf Outing

October 4-7, 2007

Avila's Homecoming Events

October 12-20, 2007

ITALY – The Colors of Tuscany
and the Venetian Treasures

December 9, 2007

Holiday Tea

February 8-9, 2008

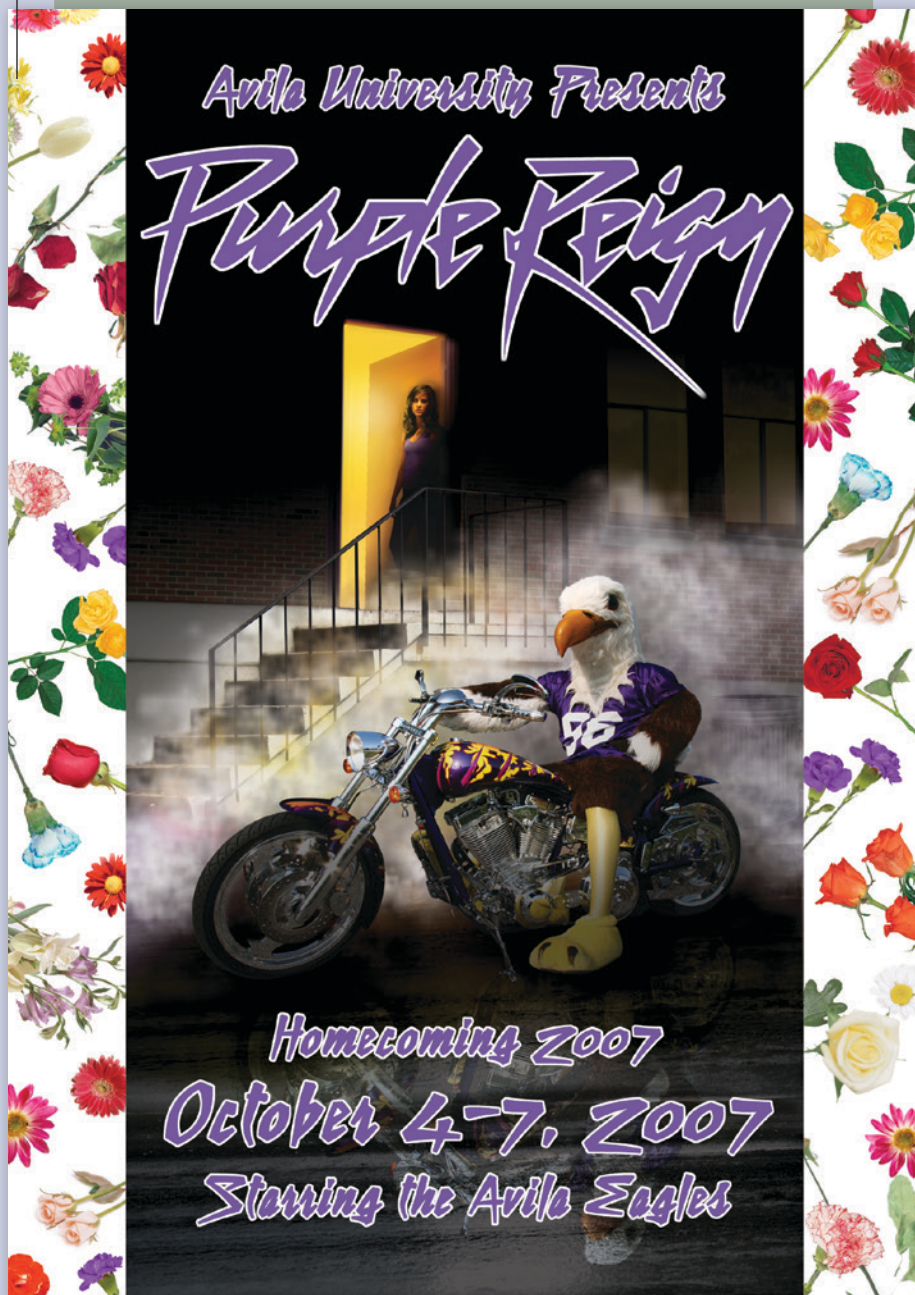
2nd Annual Avila Alumni Event
at the Great Wolf Lodge



①.



⑪.



For more information on any Alumni events, please
e-mail advancement@avila.edu or call 816-501-3602.



②

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Class of 2007 Graduation

1. Welcome 2007 graduates to the Avila Alumni Association!
2. Andy Meenen, M.S. Counseling Psychology
3. Keriann Wiester

1st Annual Avila Alumni Event at the Great Wolf Lodge

4. Kids of all ages "answered the call."
5. Avila alumni and their families plunged down the eight waterslides and waited for the 1,000 gallons of water to fall from the 48 foot tall tree fort!
6. Karen Vespestad '74 and granddaughter, Tatum, take a breather before heading back for more fun.



2007 Avila Barbecue

7. Virginia (Kopp) Coppinger '58 and husband, Tom
8. Mary Elizabeth (Hessel) Heiman '47 and Marybeth (Malsie) Swartz '47
9. A.J. Lutz '92 and guest, Susie Harrison
10. Dorothy (Brandt) Marra '52 and husband, Dan
11. Linda (Morris) Shaffer '86 and son, Logan

⑥



⑧

⑦



'53 Carolyn Ramm visited her Avila classmate, Elizabeth Janda Rohn-Nelson '53, in Sun City, Ariz., in April 2007. She enjoyed seeing all the palm trees and cacti, as well as seven swimming pools and seven golf courses.

'53 Jacqueline (Holt) Strick and her husband, Henry, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 2, 2007.

'58 Alice (Kelley) Blackford is celebrating 15 years as the founder and director of The Phoenix Montessori School in Leawood, Kan. She taught for 15 years in the Kansas City area before founding The Phoenix.

'59 Caroline (Levy) Haessler is a Shaklee sales leader, health consultant and now studying traditional Chinese medicine. She and her husband are learning Chinese and have twice traveled to China. They are hoping to get to Egypt in 2007 or 2008.

'61 Bonnie (Hudson) Gunkel officially retired this past winter from Medical Nutritional Therapists, Inc. where she was president of a consulting firm of registered dietitians for the past 23 years. In April 2007, she began working part-time as a registered dietitian with Odyssey Health Care, a hospice program. She was also elected president-elect of the Indiana Dietetic Association and will serve as president from June 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009. Bonnie has worked in the field of dietetics for the past 45 years.

'67 Brenda (Wood) Isom has taught in the Kansas City, Kan. and North Kansas City school districts, the National College of Business in S.D., and now currently teaches at Kansas City Kansas Community College. She and her husband have celebrated 46 years of marriage and

enjoy spending time with their son and daughter and two grandchildren, Ayoka and Desmond.

'71 Barbara (Walsh) Bouchey continues to enjoy retirement. She travels about six months of the year and is very involved in genealogy, especially her Irish heritage. Three years ago, she built a condo in downtown St. Louis, and she loves this ultimate urban living – she walks everywhere and is thrilled with her new community.

'73 Diana (Clevenger) Martin recently retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield in Kansas City and is now traveling in her RV working at various private and state parks through a group called Workampers. Since her two children, Devin and Dana, are now graduated from college and pursuing their careers, she decided to “run away from home!” She is currently in Wisconsin for the summer with the goal of avoiding snow and going south for the winter.

'75 Ann Suellentrop has been a maternal-child nurse at Shawnee Mission Medical Center since 2001. She also helped start a program three years ago in Kansas City called JustFaith that studies Catholic social teaching and prepares people to work for a better world. One of the things the organization has been involved with is the Interfaith Hospitality Network which helps homeless families get back on their feet. In April 2006, she went to New Orleans with a group of 22 people from northeastern Kansas to improve housing with Catholic Charities. In October 2006, she returned to New Orleans to work in a free clinic run by Heart to Heart.

'76 David D. Kerr was appointed to serve as commerce secretary by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. Kerr is currently president of AT&T

Kansas and chairman of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

'76 Mary (Read) Rhodes, coordinator of district health services for Grandview C-4 School District, has been awarded the Missouri Association of School Nurses (MASN) “Outstanding Service of a School Nurse Award.”

'76 Cheryl L. Thruston was appointed by Governor Matt Blunt to serve on the Missouri Training and Employment Council for a term ending in August 2008.

'77 Georgia (Bahr) Schmittling has been at Metropolitan Community College-Longview for 17 years, starting as an adjunct faculty and eventually moved into the community education program. In January she was promoted to the coordinator of the department. She holds a B.A. in Business from Avila and an M.A. in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She is also a graduate of the 2005 Leadership South Kansas City program offered through the Kansas City South Foundation in coordination with The South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Learning Resources Network (LERN), an international association of lifelong learning programming and a member of the Missouri Community College Association. She also owns a small quilting business with her daughter. She married her husband, Gordon, the week after she graduated from Avila. She has lived in Grandview, Mo. for 28 years.

'78 Susan (Carroll) Jones received her Masters in Maternal-Child Nursing from the University of Kansas in 1985. She currently lives in the small town of Fort Bragg, Calif., and works as the nurse manager of ICU and OB at the local

25-bed hospital. Her husband and two boys, ages 13 and 14, keep her busy.

'80 George Comiskey works in the addictions field as the Associate Director/Community Programs in the College of Human Science at Texas Tech University. He works in the continuum of services and research: Prevention to Treatment through to Recovery. Texas Tech has a recovery community made up of 80 recovering students that support each other in their recovery in a collegiate environment.

'81 Theresa M. (Reigelsberger) Davis has received permanent appointment as vice president for advancement at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo. Theresa had served in an interim capacity since March 2006.

'82 Paul Alan Burns directed a short piece in the Actors' Equity Showcase in August 2006, the third such showcase in which he's been involved. Paul served as an assistant stage manager for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre's production of "Give 'Em Hell, Harry!" and was a member of the company of the Rep's new Copaken Stage in its inaugural production, "Love, Janis" as an

understudy. He has also appeared in a series of online commercials and independent films. Paul is a founding member of Gorilla Theatre Productions, which stages annual productions of Greek classics every summer solstice in Theiss Park. He has also managed to find time to edit the manuscripts of two fantasy novels, to be published in the summer of 2007.

'82, '85 Larry Jellison is now a fully retired (30 years) Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel. He spends his days enjoying grandchildren, riding his 2005 Harley Davidson Road King Classic, hunting deer with a bow and arrow and studying the Art of Okinawan Shir on Ryu Karate. He has managed to reach the purple belt rank with only brown and black to go.

'83 Lissa (Hainbach) Applewhite has just accepted a full-time pediatric nurse practitioner position at Schmeiding Developmental Clinic in Lowell, Ark.

'83 Connie S. (Johnston) Chappelle recently became a certified legal nurse consultant (CLNC) and assists attorneys in medical-related cases.

'84 Josetta Wahwassuck is currently working toward her psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She currently works at the Bates County Medical Clinic in Butler, Mo., as a family nurse practitioner in rural health. She also works as a nurse practitioner at St. Joseph Medical Center Emergency Department.

'84 James Wright will appear in the summer season of Light Opera of Oklahoma, appearing in *Sweeney Todd*, *Trial by Jury* and *The Music Man*. He will then appear in The New Theatre production of *Out of Order*. James continues to work on his next CD titled "Center Stage: Songs of Spirit from the Musical Theatre," which is scheduled for release in late 2007.

'85 Janet (Hoyt) Goble was ordained to the Ministry of Word & Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church on January 6, 2007. She serves as the chaplain at Clark Jeary Retirement Community in Lincoln, Neb.

'89 Alreda Adams is currently teaching drama and oral communications at the middle school level. She received her master's

Stay Connected

AVILA  UNIVERSITY SM

Staying connected to Avila is easy. Submit your news for publication in *Accent*. Let us know when you get a new job or promotion, get engaged or married, have babies, retire or take a fabulous vacation. You also can send photos!

Name: _____ Maiden: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ News: _____

degree in Creative Arts. She has been married for 30 years and has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Alreda is a breast cancer survivor and completed chemo and radiation in November, 2005.

'90 Tisha Mundy is employed full-time as a hospice chaplain for AmHeart Hospice in Farmington, Mo. and is certified in Thanatology by the ADEC. She is also certified in Critical Incident Stress Management and is a certified grief counselor by the AAGC/AIHCP. She is currently seeking a Ph.D. in Grief Counseling. Tisha is the owner and chief consultant of New Hope Grief Consulting.

'91 Stephanie (Dickinson) Thurlo joined the Pleasant Hill Medical Clinic staff as a nurse practitioner earlier this year.

'93 Janet I. Ford is currently employed with ReDiscover Mental Health in Lee's Summit as a clinical case manager on a part-time basis. She had previously retired from the Missouri Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole in 2005.

'94 Sheryl Davis was elected as secretary of the National Association Medical Staff Services for 2007. Sheryl is the director of medical staff services at Carondelet Health in Kansas City, Mo.

'96 Sarah Ellerman married Jim Dickerson on June 23, 2007.

'97 Kirsten P. Lipari-Braman is a reading specialist at Stratford Landing ES in Alexandria, Va., part of the Fairfax County Public

Schools. She has three children, Matthew-John, Ann and Aidan. Her husband, John Braman, is currently on active duty in the Air National Guard and is stationed at ANG Headquarters at Andrews AFB.

'98 Gloria (Allen) Trusler was selected Teacher of the Month for October 2006. Gloria currently teaches middle school science at Sherwood Middle School in Mo.

'01 Melanie (Schmittling)

'99 Mindy (Corder) Goy and her husband, Rhett, welcomed a daughter, Adalie Kay, on January 10, 2007. Mindy and her family live in Tabor, Iowa.



'00 Bill Gleeson and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their new daughter, Lucita Marie, on April 5, 2007. Lucy joins her siblings Miriam (4) and Declan (2).



Richert is married to Jeremy Richert and they live in Marion, Iowa. Melanie works for Rockwell Collins located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She works in the community relations department.



'02 Andrea (Porter) Katamura and her husband, Alfredo, welcomed their son, Parker Alfredo Katamura, on January 25, 2007.

'03 Susan Burdge and her husband, Steven Burdge, Jr. '04 have now been married for six years and have two beautiful children, Steven Burdge, III, and Megan Ashley.

'03 Rebecca Reed married Ryan Saling on January 27, 2007. The couple is expecting their first child in July. Rebecca works as a registered nurse at an area hospital.

'04 Natalie Burnworth was married to Cory Honas on June 23, 2007. Natalie currently teaches first grade at Bryant Elementary in Independence.

'04 Lance Schmittling is a graphic designer for Design

'04 Mary Mancuso married Jeff Dietrich on July 8, 2006. The couple is currently living in Kansas City, Mo. Mary currently works as a nurse for Children's Mercy Hospital and Jeff is an accountant for PriceWaterhouseCoopers.



Resources, Inc. located in Overland Park, Kan. He was recently admitted to the graduate program at Fort Hays University.

'04 Melissa Watkins married Greg Callahan on October 7, 2006.

'04 Jill Combs married Eric Snider on September 23, 2006. Jill is employed as an MRI technologist at Lee's Summit Hospital.

'04 Lindsey Mull married Shayne Meyer on July 21, 2007. The couple lives in Overland Park, Kan. and Lindsey is currently teaching in the Shawnee Mission School District.

'05 Brandon Allen finished his first year in medical school at Florida State University. He married Katie Leung on June 23 in Jamaica.

'05 Jeremy Cox will start his summer by traveling to Havana, Cuba on

behalf of the University of Alabama to observe the educational process of Cuban Theatre. Jeremy will be the second American at the University in over 50 years. He will then wrap up the summer in New York City by participating in a three-week summer intensive workshop with TVI Actor's Studio.



'05 Deanna Herring has accepted a traveling nurse position and will be traveling to La Jolla, Calif., for her nursing assignment in the Cardiac Cath Lab at Scripps Green Hospital.

'05 Allison MacLean married Ronald Lawrence on June 7, 2007. Allison is employed by Blue Valley School District.

'05 Becky (Diven) Stretz began her new adventure in August 2006 as the new executive director of the

Santa Marta Names Connie Haworth '87 New Executive Director

Connie Haworth '87 is the new executive director of the Life Care community now under construction at 13800 W. 116th Street, across from St. Thomas Aquinas high school. Haworth is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of Santa Marta, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, scheduled to open in fall 2007.



"Right now is an exciting time for Santa Marta staff and future residents as we watch the community beginning to take shape," said Haworth. "I am proud to be a part of the Santa Marta lifestyle, because I know that what's being developed here is exactly what today's seniors are looking for in retirement living."

As the community nears completion, Haworth will be filling 65 full-time and 20 part-time positions, ranging from groundskeepers and wait staff to fitness instructors and nursing staff.

Prior to joining the Santa Marta team, Haworth was the executive director at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Mo. She spent four years (2001-2005) as the assisted living administrator at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit, Mo. Haworth served as the assistant regional director of operations at Fountains Retirement Community in Tucson, Ariz., from 1998 until 2001. Prior to this, Haworth was the Vice President of Excelcare, Inc., in Overland Park, Kan., from 1995 to 1998.

Haworth received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Avila in 1987. She also holds a master of arts in counseling psychology degree from UMKC.

Haworth is licensed by the Assisted Living Federation of America as a national assisted living administrator and by the state of Missouri as a licensed nursing home administrator.

Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic in Kansas City, Kan. She was hired to rehabilitate the old Christ the King convent and begin a new not-for-profit agency. The building was completed and Archbishop Nauman and three other priests led a beautiful procession to bless the clinic in November 2006. The clinic will offer education and services as well as a store for moms-to-be.

'06 **Louis Alvarado** received an honorable mention for a grant he wrote for the highly competitive National Science Foundation. The NSF promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

'06 **Janie (Durie) Frederick** is working at a small CPA firm, which she finds very educational. She is in the process of working towards her license to become a CPA.

'06 **Kimberly Jones** has been awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Silver Medal for superior service. Kimberly is a program analyst with the Agency's Region 7 office in Kansas City, Kan., and a member of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Initiative Team. Kimberly received her bachelor of science in finance from Avila.

'06 **Kenton Snyder** married Heidi Marie Heimer on February 4, 2007. Kenton works at OSF Saint Francis Hospital in Peoria, Ill. as an x-ray technologist.

'06 **Roger Stark** married Raquel Woods on June 2, 2007. Roger is employed by General Motors Corporation at Kansas City, Kan.

'07 **David Harris**, MSOD, has formed Harris Consulting Group, located in Belton, Mo. The Group specializes in small business consulting, including planning, design, and implementation. They are professional problem-solvers, providing the information, services, and resources that clients need during their initial startup, and as their business grows. HCG provides a third-party perspective of the client's business, and offers strategy and leadership to assist in resolving the issues that are critical to the client's success.

Revisiting the Blast from Our Past. . .

In the previous issue of *Accent*, we asked you, our readers, to comment on the photo to the right. Here is what you had to say. . .

The picture was taken in October 1957 or 1958. There was a school celebration called "Avila Day," I think, and it was around the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, October 15. We had a parade around the old oval and each class was represented some way or other. The girl in the passenger seat is Mona Pendergast, a boarder. Seated on the trunk in back from left to right are Nadine Radtka, a boarder, Pat Hauser, Marcella Bergup (that's me), a boarder, and Mary Jo McLarney, a boarder. The driver was a day student and I don't remember her name, unfortunately. Also, I don't remember if Pat Hauser was a boarder or day student.

Since I am so late responding you may already know all this, including the name of the driver!

I graduated from the then "College of St. Teresa" in 1961 and had to check my class group picture to get some of the names right. Hauser



What we think we know . . .

Mona Lee Pendergast (passenger)
Back seat from left to right: Nadine (Radtka) McGurren,
Pat Hauser, Marcella (Bergup) Geiss, Mary Joann
(McLarney) Hallett. The driver is still unknown to us.

and Pendergast were not in the class photo and I couldn't identify the driver. The photo in "Accent" which you titled "A Blast from Our Past. . ." would have been our freshman or sophomore year, 1957 or 1958.

Sincerely,
Marcella Bergup Geiss

'32 Kathryn Meiners Ruisinger passed away December 23, 2006. Kathryn received her bachelor of arts from Avila.

'37 Joy (Locke) Bauers passed away December 4, 2006. Joy received her associate of arts from Avila.

'48 Therese (Browne) Goetz passed away February 12, 2007. Therese received her bachelor of arts in sociology from Avila.

'50 Helen F. Drees passed away February 1, 2007. Helen received her bachelor of arts in sociology from Avila.

'51 Patricia Ann (Thorson) Taylor passed away March 19, 2007. Patricia received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

'52 Felicidad (Yoro) Tangonan passed away December 12, 2006. Felicidad received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

'53 Carol Elizabeth (Kennedy) Zacharias passed away December 3, 2006. Carol received her nursing degree from Avila.

'57 Pat Louise (O'Donnell) Bolin passed away April 26, 2007. Pat received her bachelor of arts from Avila.

'57 Mary Margaret (Ross) Lyndon passed away January 28, 2007. Mary received her bachelor of science in education from Avila.

'61 Karen Sue (Myers) Harkness passed away December 26, 2006. Karen received her bachelor of arts in education from Avila.

'63 Beverly A. (Hooker) Helton passed away March 9, 2007. Beverly received her bachelor of science in business administration from Avila.

'69 Linda Ann (Sturdivan) Chamblin passed away March 15, 2007. Linda received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

'78 Margaret Louis (Landry) Moberg passed away October 17, 2006. Margaret received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

'78 Robert Harry Pinnock passed away May 7, 2007. Robert received his bachelor of science in business from Avila.

'81 Doris L. Clarke passed away March 20, 2007. Doris received her MBA in finance from Avila.

'85 Mel G. Dinklage passed away January 20, 2007. Mel received his bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

'89 Dr. Robert Steven Milby passed away March 23, 2007. Dr. Milby received his bachelor of science in chemistry from Avila.

'94 Jamie Sue Lee passed away March 25, 2007. Jamie received her bachelor of science in elementary education from Avila.

Edna Amanda Bear passed away on March 2, 2007. Edna was a dear friend of Avila and once served as president of the Scholarship Sponsors Committee.

in memoriam



A Message from the President

Dear Alumni &
Friends:

Let me start out by
saying thank you!

On the surface, the Embracing the Future capital campaign, our largest ever, appears very successful. However, statistics only tell a portion of the story. What you can't read from any tables or charts is the excitement the campaign has brought to the campus, or more importantly, the impact it will have on our students, today and in the future.

Looking around campus, our students will see a wide variety of campus improvements that they will all enjoy:

- The new Jeanne Collins Thompson Residence Hall opened in August
- The top floor of Carondelet Hall was remodeled this summer, completing that building's renovations
- Next summer, all three floors of Ridgway Hall will be remodeled
- A new state-of-the-art nursing laboratory was finished last year
- The new Health Sciences Suite includes a 59-seat

classroom to handle the expansion of our School of Nursing

- Neighboring classrooms were renovated to benefit the Radiologic Science program and other health and science-related programs
- The McCullough Family Courtyard, located between Thompson and Foyle Halls as well as the Hooley-Bundschu Library, will become a dramatic focal point of the campus landscape.

The excitement and energy behind these projects has been wonderful to witness. Sign-up for on-campus housing has been very strong for this fall and the new Thompson Hall was fully booked early in the process. You could also see it in our faculty and staff, as 75% of them contributed to the campaign and have taken on active roles in campus leadership. We have truly embraced the future at Avila . . . and it is now!

I would like to pass on my sincerest thanks to Bob Fisher and Don Alexander for serving as co-chairs of the campaign. They, along with the Steering Committee volunteers and staff, worked extremely hard to make sure this capital campaign exceeded everyone's expectations.

On the following pages, you will find the name of every donor who contributed to the success of the campaign, beginning in January 2003 and running through December 2006. To all of you, on behalf of all of our students, thanks again!

Sharing your pride in Avila,

Ronald A. Slepitza, Ph.D.
President

campaign steering committee

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Co-Chair

Robert Fisher,
Co-Chair

Jim Gegg

Thomas McCullough

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*Thank you for
embracing their future!*

*A Special Initiatives Campaign for Avila University
January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2006*

Capital Projects

Goal: \$6,500,000

Campaign Total: \$6,156,014

Mabee Foundation Challenge Grant: \$1,000,000

Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant: \$750,000

*New Residence Hall Construction and Existing Residence
Halls Renovation: \$2,568,985 (Goal: \$3,625,000)*

Campus Enhancements: \$412,291 (Goal: \$1,500,000)

Santa Fe Recreation Trail Project: \$395,500 (Goal: \$375,000)

*Nursing Expansion and O'Rielly Classroom
Remodeling: \$1,029,238 (Goal: \$1,000,000)*

Unrestricted

Goal: \$4,000,000

Campaign Total: \$4,580,784

Restricted

Goal: \$1,500,000

Campaign Total: \$837,032

Endowment

Goal: \$2,000,000

Campaign Total: \$1,583,503

Estate Gifts

Campaign Total: \$3,425,440

CAMPAIGN GOAL:
\$14,000,000

GRAND TOTAL:
\$16,582,773



O’Rielly classroom renovation
as part of Avila’s new health
sciences suite

2nd National Mortgage, LLC	Mr. R. Dennis Almsberger	Assoc. for Professionals in Infection Control/ Epidemiology
AAA Coffee & Candy Service, Inc.	AMA-KC	Assured Management Company
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Mr. Gary S. Abbott	Ambience Furs	Mr. & Mrs. Andy Atchison
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Ms. Carole J. Alleman	Ms. Lisa L. Arnold	Bank of America
Sr. Rosarita Allen, CSJ	Miss Virginia L. Arnold	Bank of America Matching Gifts
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Alliance Radiology	Ms. Terri L. Ashley	Mrs. Linda J. Barber
Mrs. Candi Allison	Mr. Mark Askins	Dr. & Mrs. Pat A. Barelli
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Ben & Dianna Meade

"Faculty members at Avila are role models for students in how to learn and how to live. Potential for students can only be realized through leadership by example. Dianna and I chose to establish an endowment in our estate plan not only to assure the future of the university, but also to serve the needs of students. An Avila education is something very special, and we know that our gift will go a long way in changing lives for the better."

Dr. Ben Meade, Associate Professor of Communications, has taught at Avila since 1996. His wife, Dianna, is a student at Avila, pursuing a degree in Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design. Ben is also an award-winning independent filmmaker whose work has screened at more 100 film festivals worldwide, and aired on The Sundance Channel and Bravo! networks.

The will (or living trust) is one of the most popular vehicles for making a gift to Avila. You have the freedom to identify the size of the gift, as well as how you would like it to be used to benefit future generations of Eagles. To find out more about the advantages of including Avila in your will, or if you already have named Avila as a beneficiary of your estate, please contact Jessie Fuller, senior director of advancement, at 816.501.3613.

Consider these advantages:

- **Easy to create**
- **Still provide for your loved ones**
- **Maintain access to your assets**
- **Avoid estate tax**
- **Membership in the Heritage Society**
- **Creates a lasting legacy at Avila**
- **Provides an opportunity for future generations of students**

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